

TEL AVIV, Dec. 30 (R)—A group of Jewish residents on the occupied West Bank of the Jordan said tonight they would go ahead with plans tomorrow to defy government orders and establish a new settlement in the sensitive region. Military units took up positions on key West Bank roads today to try to prevent some 100 members of the fanatical Gush Emunim settler movement from carrying out the plan for the proposed settlement, about two kilometers southeast of Nablus, the biggest Arab town on the West Bank. Meanwhile, Israeli troops today removed about 300 Jewish residents from the Cave of Patriarchs in Hebron that is closed to Jews, military sources said. Security forces were called in after hundreds of Arabs praying near the section had threatened to attack the Jews.

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هكذا عند الأصل

JORDAN TIMES

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Jordan's desert police

Changing role in a changing environme

Text and photos
by Rami G. Khouri
Special to the Jordan Times

(This is the second of two articles based on a recent tour by our reporter with the desert police in the northern and northeastern badia regions of Jordan.)

The eastern region, under the command of Capt. Mohammad Ibrahim, includes eight desert police posts, two of which have ten camels for mobile patrols.

Nobody knows the exact population of the vast eastern region. The police estimate it to be around 20,000 people, but the emigration of bedouin tribes because of the lack of water makes the compilation of demographic statistics a difficult, if not impossible, task.

One of the focal points of the eastern region, along the Syrian-Iraqi-Saudi Arabian border areas, is the 4th Century castle of Burga, which overlooks a huge natural pool in a depression that covers about 12 square kilometres. When the pool fills up after a good, wet winter, to a depth of nearly five metres, the water is sufficient to last five years. When this happens, bedouin tribes numbering tens of thousands will gather around the pool to secure their water supplies for themselves and their animals.

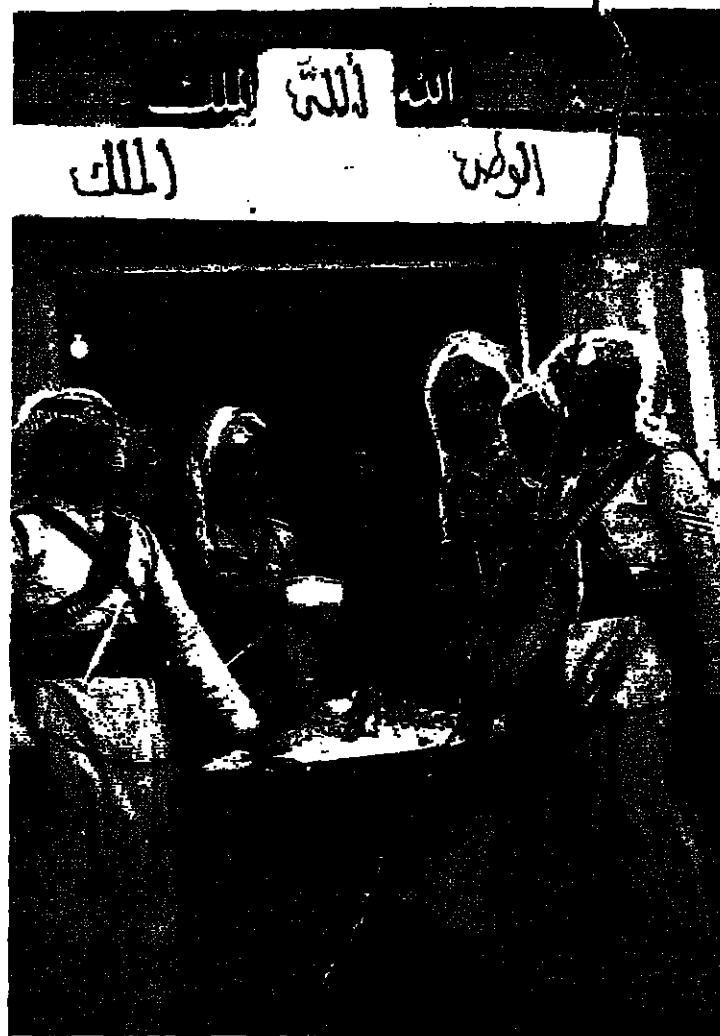
But the Burga pool is nearly empty today, a testimony to the last five dry seasons.

And when there is little water, there are fewer and fewer people who can make a living in the badia. This naturally reflects on the availability of recruits for the desert police force, according to 1st Lt. Abdul Aziz Mohammad, commander of the northern police district.

"It's becoming harder to get new recruits to join the desert police," he says, "because of the desire of younger men to receive an education in the cities, and because they are then attracted by higher paying jobs outside the badia."

Couldn't the police have bedouin women take up more positions in the police posts, to leave more men to go out on patrol? That's not really feasible, he says. But local women are brought in when required, to body search a woman who may have been detained or arrested by the police.

The colourful uniform of the desert police has not changed since the force was established in



The ultimate form of hospitality in the desert—a mensaf lunch prepared as only the native desert bedouins know how.

the 1920s. The uniform was originally designed for the Arab Legion force set up under the Emir Abdallah. The uniform was especially designed to resemble the bedouin's traditional clothing, to be more attractive to new recruits who might feel uncomfortable wearing trousers and shirts.

Each policeman carries a Smith & Wesson .38 handgun, wrapped in a bright red cloth to protect it from the desert dust and sand. The pistol is attached to the uniform by a red shoulder cord.

A whistle hangs from the belt, while bullets for the handguns and the M-14 rifles are packed into the wide belt worn horizontally across the chest. A locally made knife completes the officer's equipment, all of which is physically attached to the uniform.

There are two kinds of desert

police "posts"—the permanent post, of the kind we visited, and "mobile" posts in which policemen travel throughout the region attached to nomadic bedouin tribes.

The modern telecommunications equipment with which the desert police force is equipped today makes its task much easier than it was in past decades. All patrols are in touch with the posts through wireless sets, and all the 31 desert police posts are in touch with the headquarters in Amman via radio.

The original purpose of the desert police was to provide security, to help stop tribal warfare, and to provide a means by which the tribes in the badia recognised the authority of the central government in Amman.

Clearly, the desert police have accomplished their original charge. Like their urban counterparts, they are now providing more routine services—such as helping a stranded person—along with their peace-keeping functions.

But there is an obvious precariousness to the durability of the desert police in the long run, which parallels the precariousness of life in the badia region itself. There are more officers in their late 30s and 40s, and fewer young desert policemen in their late teens or 20s.

The trend towards sedentarisation, or settlement, of the bedouins will slowly reduce the scope of the desert police's duties, as they will naturally tend to concentrate on policing work in the urban centres and villages.

But the spirit of the desert police remains powerfully impressive. There is an obvious sense of community service among the officers, which is natural, perhaps, in a corps of professionals serving their own families and tribes.

Most striking of all is their extraordinary hospitality—a Jordanian trait even more obvious in the badia than it is in the cities. In one dashing example of hospitality and traditional courtesy, we shared our final meal of mensaf with the officers at the H-5 post. While we were enjoying the mensaf, the officers asked that two smugglers being held in the post's small prison be let out to share our food. They sat down with us and the policemen, shared the meal, the coffee and some lighthearted conversation, and returned to their cells, to be taken to a court hearing the next day, where a civil judge would hear their case.

It's hard to think of such a thing happening in any other police station in the world, or to any other prisoners or detainees. For the Jordanian desert police, however, it is all part of normal activity in the line of duty.



Camel-mounted desert patrol officers like this one cover those areas where the terrain is too even for jeeps to travel.



A five-man unit stands at attention before heading out in its pickup truck for a 24-hour patrol.



A three-man patrol leaves on a 24-hour tour of duty around the Umm Al Quttain area in northeast Jordan.

Our resolution

Apparently, the leaders of Israel have made their New Year's resolutions. Mr. Begin's resolution for 1979 is that "a Palestinian State will never be established" in the West Bank. Mr. Dayan's resolution is that at least 20 new Jewish settlements will be built in the Jordan Valley over the next four years. The resolution of the supreme of Israel's occupation forces, Major General Orly, is that the military government shall not be abolished in the occupied territories, even if the Camp David accords are put into effect.

And so, with the "year of Camp David" safely behind them, the Israelis are back in their usual business: the business of defying the world to try and stop their determination to conquer, occupy and absorb the Arab homeland.

Now that all the cheers have died, and the embraces have wilted and the euphoria has faded, we find that the forces of Zionism are very much still about the business of driving people from their homes and depriving them of their national identity.

But they should know that there is a fresh resolve on the Arab side as well. The aggrieved parties in the Middle East conflict have not sat idly by during the tedious months of 1978 while Israel, the United States and Egypt have been tinkering with their rickety Camp David framework.

This time has been used to forge a new unity in the Arab World, to hammer out a sweeping consensus and to find new strength of purpose to confront a conspiracy which aimed to divide Arab ranks, formalise Israeli occupation and liquidate the Palestinian issue once and for all.

That scheme did not work in 1978. We must resolve that it shall not succeed in 1979.

ARAB PRESS COMMENTARY

In their editorials Saturday Jordanian dailies discuss the latest stonewalling tactics of Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin concerning the future of the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

AL RA'I says that Mr. Begin spoke that in his latest press conference, of the future which he visualises for the Palestinians inside and outside the occupied Arab areas, declaring Israel's readiness to grant the people of the West Bank and Gaza strip self-rule. But Al Ra'i notes, Israel will see to it that the land remains under Israeli sovereignty. As for the Palestinians living outside the occupied areas, Mr. Begin emphasised that it was entirely out of the question for 150,000 Palestinians to be allowed to return home, as has been suggested recently.

If follows that—if Mr. Begin has his way—the Palestine issue, according to the Camp David "talismans", would be resolved only in a manner befitting Israel despite hopes of "American pressures being applied to coerce Israel to withdraw from the occupied Arab territories and to recognise the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people."

Along the same lines, AL DUSTOUR says that anyone who reads Mr. Begin's statement Friday in which he tried to show Israel's willingness to resume the deadlocked peace negotiations while insisting on rejecting any amendments to the draft peace treaty—would immediately realise that these statements are the start of a campaign in the mass media to counter Washington's and Cairo's charges that Israel is responsible for the failure of the peace effort.

The newspaper feels that the conflicting positions of Egypt and Israel on the question of self-rule are impossible to reconcile unless one party makes concessions to the other. The differences are not over phraseology but concern the essence of the two parties positions, the newspaper says.

WHAT'S GOING ON

Drawing Exhibit

An exhibition of drawings depicting scenes from Egypt, Amman and Rome by James Lamantia, is on display at the American Centre. Open from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Latin American Art

The UNESCO-sponsored touring exhibit, "Art of Latin America," is on display at the Art Gallery of the Ministry of Culture and Youth in Shmeisani, ending Sunday.

Glass Art

A group of German glass artists are exhibiting their works of glass craftsmanship at the Goethe Institute.

Illustration Drawings Exhibit

Under the theme "Meeting of Eastern and Western Culture," German artist Ruth Leibnitz is exhibiting drawings, prints and sculpture at the Art Gallery of the Ministry of Culture and Youth. Opening on Tuesday at 5:00 p.m.



Batteries, foreground, power the telecommunications system at desert police posts throughout the country.

Police dept. to get dogs, patrol units

AMMAN, Dec. 30 (JNA)—The Amman Police Department is to enlist dogs in the fight against crime, the department's Director Col. Yusuf Gharaybeh announced here today.

He told a press conference that the new measures included in an over-all preventive plan to curb criminal activities also involve the employment of 25 patrol units to rove the streets each night.

Referring to his department's activities, Col. Gharaybeh said police yesterday broke up a gang of robbers who used to run a store containing 200 stolen electrical appliances and another gang specialised in stealing cars. He said police cars are now roving in suburban areas where they make sure that stores and warehouses are

locked and warn their owners to take precautionary measures against thefts.

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Jordanian government replaces Eximbank as guarantor

Alia renegotiates \$21 million Citibank loan, saving \$2.4 million in bargain

By Omar Jawad
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN, Dec. 30 -- Alia, the Jordanian Airline, took a giant leap from pioneering new aviation services today to the lead in another aviation financing.

A ceremony at its head office this afternoon, Alia renegotiated its \$21 million loan with Citibank, saving \$2.4 million in the bargain. The new loan was signed last year to finance the purchase of its two Boeing 747 jets, making it the first Jordanian airline to refinance an international loan of this sort and Alia's Vice President for Finance, Mr. Fahed Fanek, told the Jordan Times after the signing ceremony.

The original \$70 million credit, signed Sept. 21, 1977, included

a seven-year \$49 million Eurodollar loan provided by seven international banks, and a \$21 million credit provided by Citibank with a guarantee from the U.S. Export-Import Bank (Eximbank).

Today's agreement was to refinance the \$21 million Citibank loan, including dropping the guarantee of the Eximbank and replacing it with the guarantee of the Government of Jordan.

By doing this, the interest rate on the \$21 million Citibank credit has been reduced from 2 1/2 per cent to 1 1/4 per cent over Libor (the London interbank offered rate), representing an annual saving of about \$300,000 to Alia, or a total of about \$2.4 million over the eight years of the loan. The other \$49 million portion

of the original \$70 million loan remains at its 1 1/4 per cent interest for seven years. That portion of the loan is managed by Citibank and provided by Arab Bank, Chase Manhattan Bank of America, Crocker National Bank, American Security Bank and Bank of Montreal.

The refinancing agreement was signed here today for Alia by Mr. Fanek, and for Citibank by Mr. Radford West, from Citibank's London-based merchant banking arm, Citicorp International Bank Ltd.

The refinancing of the loan reflects well on the creditworthiness of both Alia and the Jordanian government, Mr. Fanek and Mr. West both said, particularly in that the government's guarantee has been accepted in place of the Eximbank guarantee.

mbank guarantee.

The next step, Mr. Fanek said, is for Alia to secure multi-million dollar international loans on its own power, without needing even a guarantee from the Jordanian government. He hinted that such a deal is now being arranged, though the likelihood is for a small loan at first.

The refinancing also reflects recent changes in the international credit markets, Mr. Fanek said, with borrowers having a strong position today in view of the bank's excess liquidity.

The regular repayment of the first three instalments of the \$70 million loan also helps prove the airline's creditworthiness as an international borrower, Mr. Fanek said. Of the original \$70 million credit, only \$59.5 million now remains to be repaid, he said.

Delegation back from Boumedienne's funeral

AMMAN, Dec. 30 (JNA)—Jordan's delegation headed by Chief of the Royal Court Sharif Abdul Hamid Sharaf this evening returned from Algeria after attending the funeral of Houari Boumedienne.

The delegation conveyed His Majesty's condolences to the Algerian leaders. It also included Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hassan Ibrahim and Chief of Staff Maj. Gen. Mohammad Idris.

Emir of Qatar receives message from King Hussein

DOHA, Dec. 30 (R)—The Emir of Qatar Sheikh Khalifa Bin Hamad Al Thani today received a message from His Majesty King Hussein on strengthening bilateral relations and the situation in Israeli-occupied Arab territories, officials said here.

The message was conveyed by

Jordanian Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Kamel Al Sharif who told reporters the message also dealt with "dangers facing Muslim sanctuaries in Jerusalem and the West Bank at the hands of Israeli occupation authorities."

Dr. Al Sharif arrived on Thursday from Abu Dhabi on a week-long visit to Qatar.

Economy Roundup

Jordanian-Syrian free zone board ends '79 budget

AMMAN, Dec. 30 (JNA)—The board of the Jordanian-Syrian Industrial Free Zone Corporation endorsed at a meeting here today the general investment plan and the general budget for 1979. At the meeting held under the chairmanship of Minister of Industry and Commerce Dr. Nijmeddin Dajani, the board members discussed the supply of electricity and other public utilities for the free zone region and referred a recommendation in this respect to the Jordanian-Syrian Higher Joint Committee to take action. The Syrian side attending the meeting consisted of four officials led by Dr. Taha Bali, Director General of the Syrian Free Zone Corporation.

Study underway for municipal councils' bank

AMMAN, Dec. 30 (JNA)—A special committee led by the director general of the Municipal and Village Loan Fund is currently studying a draft law for the establishment of a bank for the development projects of Jordanian municipal councils. A committee spokesman said that the bank would act in place of the Municipal and Village Loan Fund, help to develop rural areas to stop the movement of people to urban regions, and would offer loans and technical expertise to help local authorities in investment projects.

Central Bank to list, trade government bonds on Amman stock exchange

Continued from page 11

transactions," Dr. Nabulsi

added if he thought Jordan really could compete with established Middle East offshore financial centres such as Bahrain. Nabulsi said several large international banks have already expressed an interest in establishing offshore banking units in Amman to conduct business throughout the Middle East region. He hinted that this step might be taken within the coming year, but the more immediate impact of the financial sector of Jordan will come from trading the government's bonds on the floor of the stock exchange.

"It's a very important happening, that for the first time we've moved bond transactions from the Central Bank to the Amman Financial Market," he said. "Bonds are traded on stock exchanges in all developed countries, and our Central Bank policy of redeeming bonds at their par value was an exceptional incentive needed to promote the use of bonds in Jordan when these were first issued here. We had to redeem them because there was no regular outlet or secondary market for bond holders who wanted to sell their bonds. But now with the listing of bonds on the stock exchange, we're moving towards normal technicalities of buying and selling."

He said the Central Bank will continue its policy of redeeming all bonds that it issued up until Jan. 1, 1979, or about JD 45 million of government development bonds now held by investors.

But the next issue of government bonds will be completely different, he said. The next issue, expected in March, will be divided into two lots. The first lot will have an interest rate of 6 1/2 - 6 3/4 per cent, and will be redeemable at the Central Bank at par value, as the old bond issues were and still are. But the second lot of the new

issue will carry a higher interest rate of 8 per cent, and will not enjoy any buy-back commitment from the Central Bank. The higher interest rate, the Central Bank governor said, should make the second lot of bonds more attractive to investors, who would then buy and sell the bonds from each other via the stock exchange, instead of through the Central Bank.

He also said the Central Bank will undertake "open market operations" -- that is it will buy and sell bonds on the stock exchange floor "according to the liquidity of the market and the general economic conditions in the country."

"The Central Bank will conduct a policy of discretionary intervention in the market if and when we feel this is justified and when monetary circumstances warrant this," Dr. Nabulsi said. He also said the Central Bank has already installed its own observer at the stock exchange to follow bond trading activity there at first hand.

He also confirmed the Central Bank would continue to issue an average of JD 15-20 million of bonds and Treasury Bills every year for the coming three years at least.

He also indicated satisfaction with the new trend towards syndication of loans for local firms among local banks, a move which he saw as the result of informal pressure by the government monetary authorities acting through the state's Specialised Credit Council.

"Commercial banks are starting to lend money to development projects and industrial companies for periods of up to ten years. This signals the first really serious move by Jordanian commercial banks to lend to development schemes," Dr. Nabulsi said.

This will be spurred along by the tax law changes which give industrial public shareholding companies a lower tax rate than other companies, Dr. Nabulsi predicted.

adding that it has been, and remains, a Central Bank policy "to differentiate between private and public shareholding companies and to provide incentives for the development of public shareholding industrial firms."

Monetary policy

Dr. Nabulsi said that the inflationary trends in late 1977 and early 1978 were "favourable," in that they pointed to a dropping rate of inflation, so the Central Bank did not exercise any pressure on commercial banks to restrain credit, as it had done in 1977 by adjusting various monetary tools such as interest rates and reserve requirements.

"The credit indicators have been generally quite acceptable to

us, as has the increase in money supply, in view of the rate of inflation," he said, predicting that the rate of inflation in 1978 will be around the 7-8 per cent mark, a sharp drop from the 15 per cent inflation rate of 1977.

The money supply (measured by the total amount of cash in circulation, and demand and savings deposits in banks) will have risen about 21 per cent in 1978, according to the latest figures summarised in a neat chart on Dr. Nabulsi's desk.

While this may appear to be high, Dr. Nabulsi says "This is an acceptable rise in the money supply, and it is reasonable in view of the inflation rate and the monetisation of the economy. It is also in line with the more stable monetary years of the 1970s."

TODAY'S WEATHER

The weather will be fine with temperatures above normal and light and variable winds. In Aqaba Gulf there will be temporarily hazy weather and northerly moderate winds with calm seas.

Temperatures:

Amman
Aqaba
Jordan Valley
Deserts

Overnight Minimum	Daytime Maximum
5	16
10	22
13	23
4	18

LOCAL EXCHANGE RATES

U.S. dollar	292.00/294.00
U.K. sterling	596.00/600.00
West German mark	160.50/161.50
Swiss franc	180.10/181.20
French franc	70.00/70.40
Italian lire	35.10/35.30
Japanese yen (for every 100)	150.30/151.20
Dutch guilder	148.10/149.00
Swedish crown	68.10/68.50

AMMAN STOCK EXCHANGE REPORT

NAME OF COMPANY	Par Value	Volume Traded	Last Buying Offer	Last Selling Offer	Closing Price
Jordan Petroleum Co.	JD 5,000	4,870	6,880	6,900	6,880
Jordan Cement Factories	JD 10,000	1,807	—	13,900	13,900
Arab Pharmaceutical Co.	JD 5,000	1,611	17,900	18,000	17,910
Housing Bank	JD 1,000	1,270	1,250	1,270	1,270
Jordan Gulf Bank	JD 1,000	3,266	0,980	0,990	0,990
Dar Aldawa Development and Investment Co.	JD 1,000	712	1,750	1,780	1,780
Jordan Cement Factories	JD 1,000	3,348	—	1,020	1,020
Jordan Electricity Co.	JD 1,000	5,524	—	1,470	1,450
Arab Aluminium Co.	JD 1,000	90	0,900	0,910	0,900
Jordan Pipes Manufacturing Co.	JD 10,000	1,080	—	—	10,800
Arab Bank Co.	JD 10,000	4,555	—	—	67,000
Garage Owners Federation Office Co.	JD 1,000	500	4,800	5,300	5,000

Total volume traded, Saturday, Dec. 30: JD 28,433
Total number of shares traded: 13,110

D. WHITE

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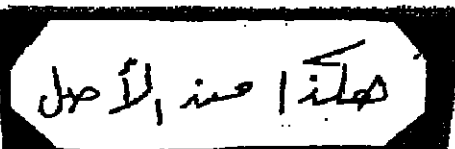


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New Year's resolution to quit smoking?

Despite vigorous anti-smoking campaigns in most Western European countries, the number of cigarettes smoked has hardly fallen in the EEC. Proposals for a new, tough approach, including an almost total ban on tobacco advertising, have been put before the EEC Commission.

Cigarette sales fell from 137bn in 1974 to 124.2bn in 1977. The number of smokers dropped from 19.5m in 1974 to 18.2m two years later.

The European Commission attributes a three per cent decline in the number of French smokers to the success of various anti-tobacco information campaigns. For the first time in a decade, sales of tobacco products in France have de-

creased by 1.9 per cent. At the beginning of 1970, 43-44 per cent of French adults smoked, but by 1977 the percentage had dropped to 40. Smoking habits have hardly changed in the rest of the Community, however.

Meanwhile, the cost of medical care has increased drastically by 180 per cent in real terms in France between 1966 and 1975, for example, and by 60 per cent in

Britain during the same period.

This is in line with statistics presented by CCC which suggest that the social cost of smoking in industrial societies tends to be something like three times the total tax revenue raised from the sale of tobacco products. Social cost in the bureau's accounting comprises sickness benefit payments, medical care, including the price of medicines, the number of work days lost and damage caused by fire as a result of smoking.

CCC presented its statistics and recommendations to the European Commission shortly before the decision by the member countries to evolve a joint policy on advertising restrictions and to

seek a new approach to anti-smoking campaigns. The consumer organisation may well continue to exert considerable influence in the bargaining process leading to an agreement on Europe's common anti-smoking measures.

Italy banned tobacco advertising in 1962 and prohibited the use of tobacco in public places three years ago. CCC wants similar measures to be enforced throughout the Community.

The only exception to the advertising ban would be tobacconists' shops. But then the information would have to be complete—and include the tar, nicotine and carbonic acid content

of the product as well as details of the risks which they present to the consumer.

Consumer awareness is the focal point of the proposals. The bureau has put forward suggestions for a series of international health information campaigns to be directed not only towards smokers, but also towards those most likely to dissuade them, such as doctors, parents and teachers. The organisations wants to start with an information campaign launched by the European Commission and involving representatives of the consumer bodies.

Financial Times
News-Features

It has a lot to offer but the voracious money grabbers won't leave the tourists alone

By Diana Smith

RIO—Between January and October this year 604,560 foreign visitors came to Brazil—a modest figure for a country that can fit Portugal, Spain and Belgium into one state, and whose 8.5m square kilometres nearly equals the area of the United States.

Booming tourism would help Brazil's services deficit (burdened by interest and repayments of a \$40bn foreign loan).

The authorities are eager for more foreign visitors to bring dollars, marks, pounds, yen, pesos or lire and leave after a pleasant holiday. But Brazil's contradictions create obstacles that add to the expense of air fares (\$1,300 from London to Rio) and weight of distances.

Rio de Janeiro is the gateway to Brazil for most visitors from northern climes. It is blessed with one of the most beautiful beaches in the world. It has abundant hotels, restaurants (but few in the tourist class), nightclubs and theatres, museums, churches and views so dazzling that even the iconic turn of the city.

Most visitors gravitate to the south zone, area of evocative names like Copacabana and Ipanema, where they can happily fry a beach or beside a hotel swimming pool, helping themselves to exotic fruits temptingly displayed on pool side buffet tables, watching sunsets that are glorious and vulgar, so violent is their colouring, listening to the surf and counting the stars in a cloudless light sky.

If they can afford a minimum of

Brazil wants to attract foreign tourists, and there is a lot to make the journey worthwhile, as long as the tourist avoids the pitfalls of Rio, where the pirate taxi drivers are as predatory as any Amazon piranha.

\$60 a day at one of Rio's new coastal hotels, which house scores of shops, restaurants, nightclubs and big-scale, high-cost "Brazil by night" floor shows, they need never stray from their lodgings.

At a price they can cushion themselves from what one irate visitor described "the biggest rip-off joint in the world".

The problem starts at Rio's Galeao Airport, for the visitor who fails to notice green and orange posters plastered over the walls, advising him to take a co-op taxi to his destination.

The co-ops have well-marked sales counters inside the airport building. Having passed through Customs, the visitor would do well to go straight to a counter, state his destination, and buy his taxi ticket.

Jet lag from a 10, 12 or 14-hour flight should not deviate him. Otherwise he will be enticed by an offer of "Taxi, Senhor!" and find himself in a cab, paying in advance \$75 to \$100 or more for a ride to Copacabana that currently costs \$14 in a co-op taxi.

If he gasps, he will be shown an "official" printed tariff with names of hotels and "official fares". If he is still not convinced and demands a receipt he will receive a useless piece of paper. There is no redress. The airport administration's files bulge with visitors' complaints—to no avail.

He may suffer a further blow: having paid his \$100, he could be driven a kilometre or so of the 30 kilometres to "Copa", then dropped by the highway.

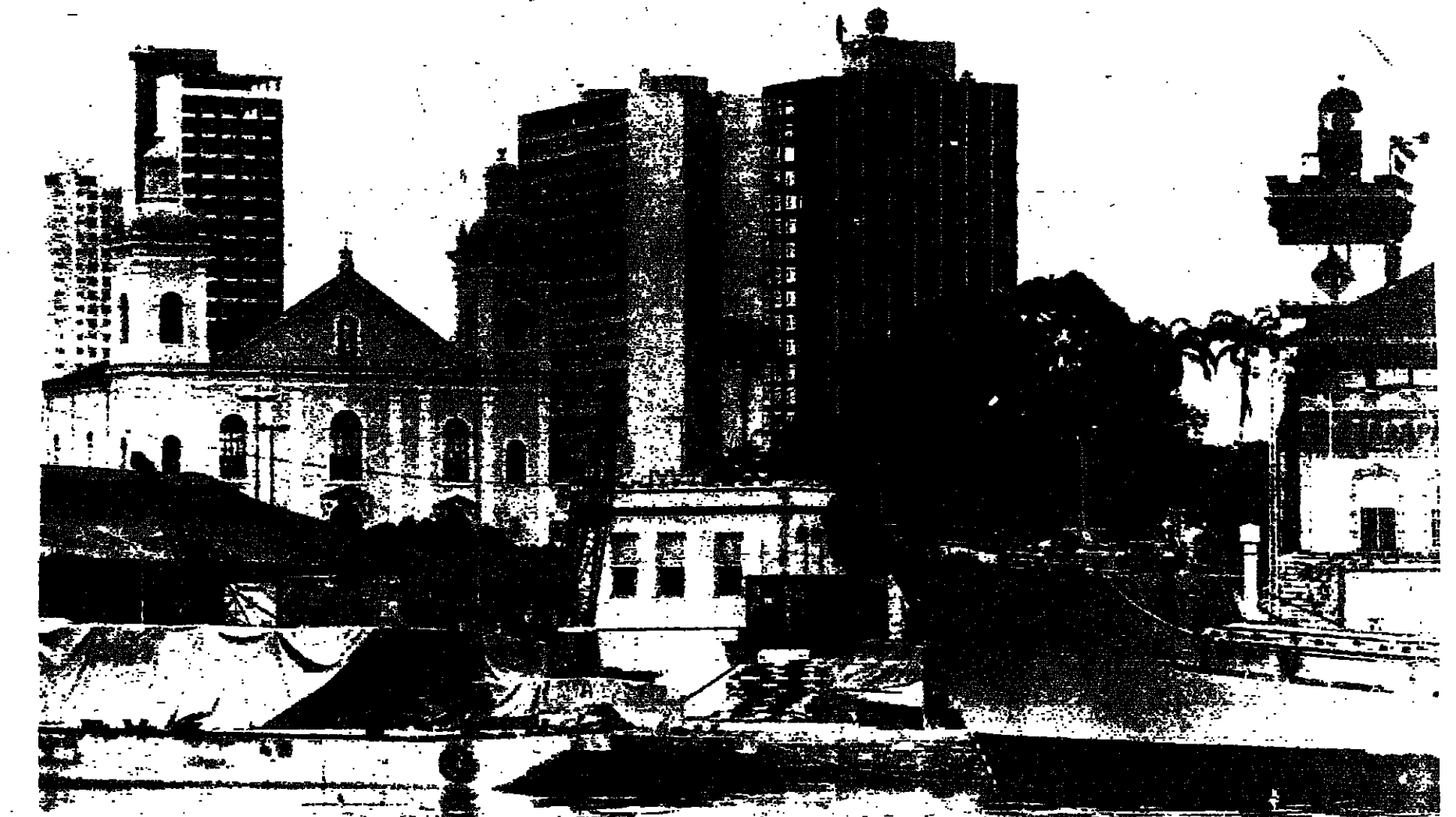
The driver claims the pirate cab has suffered a "breakdown", but as soon as his hapless passenger disembarks he drives off at amazing speed for a broken down vehicle to catch another victim in minimum time.

Rio's cruising taxis also trap visitors. The sight of a foreign face or bearing makes fares leap mysteriously from an average of \$2 to \$5 or more, or the driver runs out of change. (A myth: Rio's taxi drivers have abundant change, even for large notes.)

But there is a lot more to Brazil than Rio's predatory taxi drivers. Potential tourist assets are abundant and often spectacular. White sand beaches cover the coastline from far south to north east. The south Atlantic is not getting cleaner, thanks to dumping of polluting chemicals by passing vessels, but it is still fit for swimming, surfing, sailing, scuba diving and fishing.

Inland Brazil is rich in mountains and valleys, waterfalls and rapids, forgotten hamlets and thriving cities with all modern comforts.

Domestic airlines are not cheap, but the punctuality and regularity of flights all over the country,



Manaus, Brazilian port on the Amazon River, has a population of 450,000.

space for arms and legs, quality of food (on real not plastic plates) and the amount of free drink dispensed are all exceptional.

There is vast range of air-conditioned buses with reclining seats and chemical toilets running from south to north, east to west, day and night, for those who have the time and money to spend travelling, and a desire to see the "nation that is continent" from the ground.

Brazil's towns or cities display graceful vestiges of the Portuguese colonial past, and futuristic piles of glass and steel,

mansions of the wealthy, and teeming slums of the poor. The adventurous traveller can seek out exotic Afro-Indian culture mixed with Roman Catholic piety, or the depths of the Amazon, journeying by river, on the lookout for alligators, boa constrictors, brightly-plumed birds and bizarre fish.

Brazil abounds in fruits and vegetables characteristic of the tropics - papaya, pineapple, guava, mangoes and limes, avocado, squash and sweet potatoes.

Drinks are concocted from juices of passion fruit, guinea, tamarind, persimmon, lemons and oranges, laced with rum or not, as taste requires.

Ice-cold Brazilian-brewed lager can be found even in backwaters, though a more unusual treat is coconut water, sipped through a straw straight from the shell, after a machete has neatly severed the top of the coconut.

Unlike Chileans or Argentines, Brazilians are not habitual wine drinkers. The poor quality of mass-marketed wines, sold with

names of imaginary chateaux, reflects this.

For discriminating travellers who do not like beer or Coca Cola, however, there are a few, limited quantity reserves served in better hotels or restaurants that do not suffer from comparison with moderate European vintages.

Lovers of Scotch, however, would be advised to leave their taste at home: at \$4.50 a shot in hotels or bars, Scotch is not only prohibitive, it is also unlikely to come from a Highland glen, whatever the label says. It may be local

rotgut brands, introduced into a genuine Scotch bottle through a hole cut in the bottom, then rescaled.

This sort of fiddle is part of a tendency to cheat the foreigner endemic to Rio de Janeiro. This challenge to foreign wits and wallets does a disservice to energetic efforts by the Brazilian Tourist Board to organise and expand the tourist trade. Rio's capacity, reported by the tourist to ill at home, may hurt the trade for years to come.

Financial Times
News-Features

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مكتبة من الامم

Philippines asks Communist nations to help resettle 2,300 Viet refugees

MANILA, Dec. 30 (R) — The Philippines has asked Communist countries including the Soviet Union and China to help resettle the 2,300 Vietnamese refugees crammed on board the rusting freighter *Tung An* in Manila Bay, diplomatic sources said today.

Deputy Foreign Minister Jose Ingles, who earlier appealed to 19 Western countries for help, also called in Vietnamese ambassador Vu Tien yesterday to explain his country's attitude toward the exodus, the sources said.

Unlike Thursday's meeting with Western and Japanese diplomats, yesterday's meeting was not officially publicized and no details were released. The Soviet and Chinese ambassadors were also present at yesterday's meeting.

the sources said.

More than 60 per cent of those on board the *Tung An* are ethnic Chinese. The freighter arrived here three days ago after being towed out of Brunei last week.

The Philippines said the refugees cannot land because its facilities are already overtaxed with more than 2,000 refugees who had arrived earlier in small boats.

Officials said the sick who had been taken to hospital — by last night numbering eight — would be

returned to the *Tung An* as soon as they recovered.

Investigations by the Philippines Foreign Ministry and the United Nations High Commission for Refugees representative indicated that most of those on board were professionals and middle class people, who appeared to have bribed their way out of the country, the officials said.

Officials both here and in Hong Kong are also investigating whether a syndicate might be oper-

rating to pick up the refugees at sea for a fee, though they said no hard evidence had emerged.

Frankfurt's offer
Meanwhile in Hong Kong, Frankfurt's offer take 250 Vietnamese refugees from the Huey Fong was kind — but it would be fairer to take "boat people" already awaiting resettlement here, a government spokesman said today.

The Taiwanese-owned freighter, carrying 2,700 refugees, has been anchored off Hong Kong for more than a week with the British authorities refusing to let them land because this was not the ship's first port of call.

Yesterday's surprise offer came from Frankfurt's Mayor Walter Wallmann who said a Frankfurt official would leave for Hong Kong next week to select refugees and deal with formalities.

Hong Kong Government Information Director John Slimming, in a radio interview, described the West German offer as very kind. But he added: "A more helpful and much fairer move would be for people to offer to take those refugees who are already in Hong Kong and whom the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has not been able to find places for overseas yet."

Mr. Slimming said almost 4,000 "boat people" had come to Hong Kong in six months and were clearly arriving faster than they could be resettled. Hong Kong had also received 70,000 legal immigrants from China this year who would settle in the British colony.

He defended Hong Kong's strict application of the first-come-first-served principle, saying "We are not just saying no to this one vessel. But we are saying no to a very real possibility of perhaps scores of vessels."

In Bangkok, a UNHCR spokesman reported that Norway had offered to take the 121 Vietnamese refugees who arrived in Thailand on Dec. 26 on board the Norwegian freighter *Torvanger*.

The 121, half of them children, had left southern Vietnam on Dec. 19 on a small fishing boat and drifted for seven days before the *Torvanger* picked them up.

Ambassador to U.S. leaves post Taiwan said to be hardening attitude toward U.S. moves

WASHINGTON, Dec. 30 (R)—Taiwan's Ambassador to the United States James Shen went home last night, but his government clearly signalled that it did not plan to go quietly into diplomatic obscurity.

As Mr. Shen, 69, was preparing to leave yesterday, the State Department told reporters that Taiwan was hardening its attitude toward the break in relations with Washington, which will take place on Jan. 1 when formal ties with Peking are established.

"What they are asking for is to be recognised *de jure* (i.e. right) as the government controlling the territory over which the assert control," Mr. Feldman said.

Although denying that the abrupt departure yesterday from Taipei of an American diplomatic delegation indicated hostility, he added that Nationalist insistence on some government-to-government contact was slowing the talks down.

The delegation, headed by Deputy Secretary of State Warren Christopher, arrived in Taipei earlier in the week for talks on future relations between the two countries.

"This is highly complex and these issues are going to have to be thrashed out over a lengthy period of time," the State Department spokesman said.

The departure of Ambassador Shen last night by commercial aircraft was the clearest symbol of the rupture in the long-standing relations between America and Taiwan.

As a sign of respect for Mr. Shen, ambassador here since 1971, a State Department delegation led by David Newsom, Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs, attended his departure.

Also on hand were some congressional members of the "China lobby" which fought in the 1950s and 1960s against any attempts to form closer ties with the Peking's Communist leaders.

World Council of Churches split by issue of aid to Rhodesian guerrillas

GENEVA, Dec. 30 (R)—Faced with a widening split among members over a controversial \$85,000 grant to Rhodesian guerrillas, the World Council of Churches (WCC) meets in Jamaica next week in an attempt to restore unity.

Church leaders from more than 100 countries will attend the 11-day session of the WCC's Central Committee, the policy-making body of the Geneva-based organisation which represents 400 million Christians around the world.

The Council's leaders have admitted their efforts to counter the criticism have been inadequate. Last month they said they were rethinking the principles governing an eight-year-old fund which was set up to support organisations fighting racism.

The gift to the Patriotic Front for humanitarian aid to Rhodesian refugees aroused anger in churches from Norway to Ireland. The British-based Salvation Army, which has lost several members in the Rhodesian war, suspended membership of the WCC when the grant was rel-

eased.

The Swedish, Dutch and Norwegian governments have given cash to the anti-racism fund, which has paid out more than \$3 million to various movements—about half in Africa.

But the Synod of the Dutch Reformed Church has called for the fund programme to be carefully evaluated, especially in relation to groups which have taken up arms. And the Norwegian mis-

sionary society urged the church of Norway to discontinue membership of the WCC.

The Central Committee members will have before them proposals for a new set of principles to govern the programme. At present the WCC maintains no control over how the money is spent. But officials say it has never been proved that any of the cash has been diverted for military purposes.

Bomb blast rips through crowded S. African shop

WINDHOEK, Dec. 30 (R)—At least 17 people were wounded, two seriously, by a bomb explosion in a crowded shop in the seaside resort town of Swakopmund today.

Police said the bomb was believed similar to those used in a series of attacks in the South West Africa (Namibia) capital of Windhoek earlier this month.

Swakopmund, originally a port built by the German colonialists in the late 19th century, was cro-

wed with summer holidaymakers.

Police gave no indication of who they believed responsible for today's blast, which ripped through a delicatessen store.

Guerrillas of the South West Africa Peoples Organisation (SWAPO) have been waging a limited bush war against South African troops deployed in the Pretoria-ruled territory, but there have been few incidents in Swakopmund.

NEWS FOCUS

Mexico's big oil reserves may not solve everything

MEXICO CITY, Dec. 30 (R)—Buoyed by the discovery of new oil resources, Mexico faces 1979 with renewed optimism, confident it can set the stage for accelerated economic growth in the years ahead.

But the optimism is somewhat tempered by the realisation that many grave problems remain and oil is not a cure-all for everything. "For Mexico to depend exclusively on petroleum as the magic remedy for all its ills would be long range national suicide," Mr. Jorge Diaz, director general of the state oil company Pemex, has said.

Among the many problems — and classic ingredients for social revolt — are unemployment, inflation, high population growth, balance of payments deficits, unequal distribution of wealth, low agricultural productivity and a high literacy level.

That Mexico, despite its problems, has remained politically stable in a continent noted for military dictatorships, is in itself a unique achievement.

In addition to its own domestic problems, Mexico is further hampered by its relations with the United States. Mexico is financially and commercially dependent on its neighbour—about 95 per cent of this Latin nation's financial operations are in dollars and 65 per cent of its commerce is with the U.S.

Foreign Minister Santiago Roel has said Mexico's main problems are with the U.S. and only by treating each other as equals can differences be resolved. With their oil clout, the Mexicans are no longer content to act as junior partners of Washington.

Diplomatic observers believe a change in relationship between the countries could come about when President Jimmy Carter arrives here in February for an official visit.

Most promising source

Because of unrest in Iran and continuing problems in the Middle East, Mexico is now seen by the U.S. as its newest, most promising and stable source of petroleum for the next decade.

According to official statistics, Mexico has proven reserves of 20,240 million barrels of oil, probable reserves of 37 billion barrels and potential reserves of 200 billion barrels. A major discovery made recently could add another 100 billion barrels to potential reserves. From an average daily production this year of 1.5 million barrels and exports of 500,000 barrels, daily output next year will rise to about two million barrels and exports to 717,000 barrels. The increased exports coupled

with a price hike of 14.5 per cent decreed by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) will mean at least \$3.7 billion in oil revenue for Mexico, almost double what it expects to earn this year.

Mexico is not a member of OPEC and sells its oil at prices generally higher than those pegged by the organisation. The bulk of the oil goes to the U.S. and could become an important factor in reducing Washington's dependence on OPEC supplies.

Other priorities

There is no doubt that energy development remains Mexico's number one economic priority, but officials are quick to stress that other sectors are not being forgotten.

Annual agricultural production lags behind population growth and Mexico still cannot feed itself. About \$3 billion have been set aside for agriculture in the government's new budget and officials are hopeful of an improvement in food output.

The budget is seen by economists here as having clear expansionist tones. The government expects growth in Gross Domestic Product in the new year to reach about 6.5 per cent, compared with six per cent this year and 3.2 per cent in 1977.

It also expects to peg inflation to a more tolerable level of between 12 to 13 per cent compared to 16 to 17 per cent this year and 20 per cent in 1977.

The current account balance of payments deficit, estimated at \$2.6 billion this year, is likely to pass the \$3 billion mark as a result of stepped-up development and more imports.

The aim for 1979 is to create between 500,000 and 700,000 new jobs. Out of Mexico's labour force of 18 million, about ten million are unemployed or underemployed, according to Mr. Armando Labor, President of the National Council of Economists. Additionally, 800,000 people join the labour ranks annually.

Economists believe it will take a few years before the effects of Mexico's oil revenue are felt. Much of the money that will be earned by the petroleum industry next year will go back to buying new machinery and improving operational methods.

As a result, additional foreign loans in the region of \$3 billion are expected for 1979 and a continuing trade deficit is forecast.

That it takes a fair chunk of the budget just to service Mexico's foreign debts does not seem to worry officials. They are confident that oil will eventually help them out of trouble.

Communists may be asked to lessen world economic inequity

RUNAWAY BAY, Jamaica, Dec. 30 (R) — West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt is to suggest that the Communist world joins the so-called North-South dialogue which aims to establish a fairer international economic system.

This was the only concrete result to emerge from 14 hours of talks here between leaders of seven countries representing the rich, poor and in-between nations of the world.

Jamaican Prime Minister Michael Manley, who convened the two-day meeting, had insisted beforehand that its object was to discuss world economic problems in an informal setting, not to negotiate or make decisions.

Mr. Schmidt told a press conference when the summit ended last night that he would propose that the Soviet Union, its East European allies and China should join the three-year-old and so far largely fruitless North-South dialogue.

The key to the dialogue is the proposal for a series of agreements to prevent wild fluctuations in the prices of vital commodities such as wheat, sugar, coffee, copper and tin.

Financial backing

Mr. Schmidt said he would sug-

gest that the Communist world should contribute to a \$1 billion dollar common fund to finance the commodity schemes which are essential to the dialogue.

The world's developing nations have said they believe the rich nations should bear the brunt of the financial burden.

The seven leaders at the summit from West Germany, Nigeria, Venezuela, Australia, Canada, Norway and Jamaica — told press conference they agreed inflation was the number one common enemy of both rich and poor countries.

Although they stressed the dial atmosphere of the summit, sources said Schmidt told the developing nations that not all the blame for economic stagnation can be the door to industrialisation.

They said he stressed the need for population explosion deterrents, such as the nationalisation, to private investment as a means to greater economic progress in the developing world.

Several leaders called for a future informal meeting to discuss world economic problems but Mr. Manley said there was a plan to repeat the Jamaica summit.

JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

RYKUM

LEEBI

ENLOOD

DORINO



Now arrange the circled letters from the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: _____

Saturday's Jumbles: MEALY CUBIT NEARBY MODEST
Answer: Out of jail—and ill in bed—"B-A-I-L-E-D"

THE Sunday Crossword

(Formerly The New York Herald Tribune Crossword)
Edited by Herb Ettenson

IN SEASON

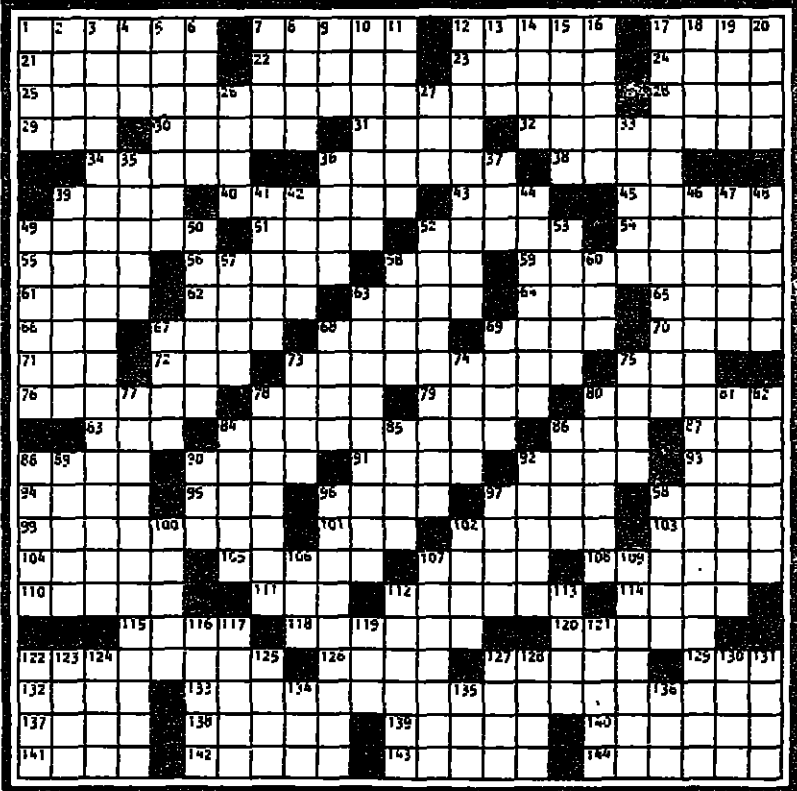
By H.E. Bennett

ACROSS

- 1 Spoke
- 2 Oscar, e.g.
- 3 Cakes
- 4 Wine car
- 5 Congenital
- 6 More mean
- 7 Florida
- 8 Dry gulch
- 9 Herbert S.
- 10 Dole's
- 11 Rickett
- 12 Ingredient
- 13 Passing by
- 14 Negatives
- 15 Island near
- 16 Malay
- 17 Indonesian
- 18 Oratorio
- 19 Melody
- 20 Themes
- 21 "Na Na"
- 22 Attenuates
- 23 Isaac and
- 24 Otto
- 25 Small boat
- 26 New Guinea

DOWN

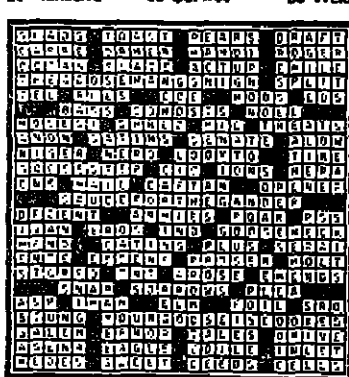
- 11 Exhausts
- 12 Bivouac
- 13 Noun suffix
- 14 "At Christ"
- 15 Entree
- 16 Captain
- 17 "Before"
- 18 "C. Moore"
- 19 Appointed
- 20 Competently
- 21 Methods
- 22 "Poor Gym"
- 23 Fender
- 24 "Yankee"
- 25 Doodle...
- 26 "Iberian"
- 27 "Lionel"
- 28 "Lionel"
- 29 "Lionel"
- 30 "Lionel"



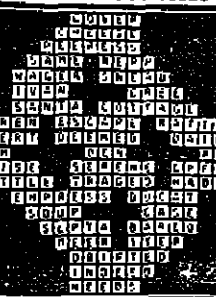
Diagramless

19 X 19, by Adam Christopher

- 1 Small rug
- 2 Cheerful
- 3 Bused
- 4 With 4A
- 5 season's greetings
- 6 Code
- 7 Discharges
- 8 Stop
- 9 Booboo
- 10 Lops
- 11 "and Old"
- 12 Adhesive
- 13 Blitzen
- 14 Body of
- 15 Jewish law
- 16 Nard's
- 17 instrument
- 18 Status
- 19 Edict
- 20 School for
- 21 Pierre
- 22 Browning
- 23 Middle
- 24 Set free
- 25 Rhymed
- 26 Rinses
- 27 Loudness
- 28 Part of BA
- 29 King's residence
- 30 Fresh
- 31 "Glas"
- 32 "Glas"
- 33 "Glas"
- 34 "Glas"
- 35 "Glas"



SOLUTIONS OF LAST WEEK'S PUZZLES



CRYPTOGRAMS

1. SMATORYKEE NINTAG STOROR REIYE
SPEER SEBAMY OI YEPP SMOKING.
—By Frederick W. Chesson
2. CRT FREE ROOILE ENTIL FRANE ORL
ZRAIEG ZISTIL'E ZIST.
—By Lois B. Jones
3. TEACHING EA ZYP UHGNI ET AMZ
UMMG FACIETY.
—By Rose Santors
4. ISBI ENBAUU BL OBEINYSURVU STO
OTLIUAE TGGUIYELE RVBYU T
EYANLE GAULIS TIULY.
—By Barbara J. Rugg

Last Week's Cryptograms

1. Small sage beaver observed that he seemed to be a meager beaver.
2. Colons and/or semicolons ameliorate short childish sentences.
3. Women's lib sometimes throws on those for whom the bellies tail.
4. New bus driver drove down busy side roads and byways.

كيتا من اهل جرد